

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 124185

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AF, US

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION FOR OPEN DIALOGUE

FOR: MARK PLATT (LANGUAGE TRAINING, SHIRAZ)

1. GIVEN YOUR IMPORTANT ROLE IN CARRYING OUT EMBASSY KABUL'S EXERCISE IN POLICY REVIEW, WE ARE REPEATING OUR MESSAGE OF COMMENDATION FOR YOU. SHOULD YOU, LIKE DAVID MCGAFFEY, WISH TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON ANY OF THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS IN AFGHANISTAN, WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR FROM YOU. MESSAGE TO KABUL FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE THE SECRETARY'S OPEN FORUM PANEL WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND SPECIAL COMMENDATION TO THE LEADERSHIP AND STAFF OF EMBASSY KABUL FOR ITS EXEMPLARY OPENNESS IN REPORTING AND DISCUSSION. THE PANEL HAS FOLLOWED YOUR EXTENSIVE EFFORTS DURING THE LAST HALF YEAR TO ENGAGE ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY TEAM IN A SEARCHING RE-EVALUATION OF US POLICY TOWARD AFGHANISTAN. IT HAS BEEN AN INITIATIVE SUPERBLY CONCEIVED AND EXECUTED.

3. BECAUSE WE APPRECIATE THE REASONING WHICH LAY BEHIND EMBASSY KABUL'S 1090 OF FEBRUARY 21, 1974 AND THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE IN STATE 72260 OF APRIL 10, 1974, WE BELIEVE THAT THE QUESTIONS RAISED THEREIN AND BY THE SPECIAL REVIEW GROUP DESERVE CONTINUING ATTENTION. WE

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SHARE YOUR CONCERNS WITH BOTH THE SPECIFIC ISSUES OF US NATIONAL INTEREST IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE MORE GENERAL QUESTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

4. THE PANEL HAD DEFERRED CONTACTING YOU EARLIER TO FOLLOW-UP ON SUCH QUESTIONS AND TO COMMEND YOUR EFFORTS, PENDING PUBLICATION OF QUOTE OPEN FORUM UNQUOTE. THE FIRST ISSUE OF THIS CLASSIFIED, IN-HOUSE JOURNAL OF OPINION WAS JUST PRINTED LAST WEEK AND SHOULD BE ON ITS WAY TO KABUL. WE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR SUBMITTING AN ARTICLE WHICH DRAWS ON POINTS RAISED IN A-12 AND THE OTHER NOTED MESSAGES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF QUOTE OPEN FORUM UNQUOTE. IN THAT WAY, THE FRUITS OF EMBASSY KABUL'S UNIQUE REAPPRAISAL WOULD BE SHARED THROUGHOUT STATE, USIA, AID AND ACDA AND ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS.

5. SINCE DAVID MCGAFFEY WAS DRAFTER OF THE SPECIAL REVIEW GROUP'S REPORT AND IS A PARTICULARLY VALUED AND RESPECTED ALUMNUS OF THE OPEN FORUM PANEL, HE MIGHT TAKE A LEADING ROLE IN DRAFTING SUCH A PIECE. ANY ARTICLE OR LETTER TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE SENT TO: SANDY VOGELGESANG, PANEL CHAIRMAN, S/P-OFP, ROOM 7310, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. IF NECESSARY, TELEGRAM TO SAVE TIME. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

6. EVEN IF AN ARTICLE ON THE ABOVE - OR OTHER TOPICS - CANNOT BE WRITTEN AT THIS TIME, THE PANEL WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH WITH INTEREST THE LIVELY AND ARTICULATE REPORTING FROM EMBASSY KABUL AND LOOK FORWARD TO ONGOING EXERCISES IN OPEN DIALOGUE. AGAIN, CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB VERY WELL DONE. KISSINGER UNQUOTE SISCO

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